

A First Time for Everything?: Asako, Iko, and Their Affections [Updated Version]

Posted originally on the [SquidgeWorld Archive](http://squidgeworld.org/works/92248) at <http://squidgeworld.org/works/92248>.

Rating:	General Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Categories:	QPR , Gen
Fandom:	Toshokan Sensou Library War
Relationship:	Kasahara Iku & Shibasaki Asako
Characters:	Kasahara Iku , Shibasaki Asako
Additional Tags:	Originally Posted on Sunset , Queerplatonic Relationships , Intimate Friendships , Romantic Friendship , Platonic Kissing , Saffic fic , Blushing , Teasing , First Kiss , Fluff , Bechdel Test Fail , Platonic Relationships , Roommates , Female Friendship , Sharing a Room , Affection , Friendship , Libraries , Librarians , Japanese Character(s) , Canon Compliant , Queer Themes , LGBTQ+ Themes , Female Character of Color , Platonic Romance , Word Count: Less than 2500 , Constructive Criticism Welcome , Comments Welcome , Mention of Atsushi Dojo
Language:	English
Series:	Part 31 of Originally on Sunset
Stats:	Published: 2026-05-07 Words: 2,116 Chapters: 1/1

A First Time for Everything?: Asako, Iko, and Their Affections [Updated Version]

by [lefemmerouge](#)

Summary

Iku is pulled away from work in the library by her friend, and roommate, Asako Shibazaki. She is nervous, as it is her first time doing something like this, and she doesn't want to mess it up. Her friend plans to help her out, no matter what. She wants to make sure this goes right and that no one's feelings are hurt, so they can find a way, behind closed doors, to express themselves openly without anyone to judge or watch over them...

Notes

Happy May 7th! When I saw the prompt by NightcoreAndCaffeine for a "QPR for any female two or more female characters" on a certain site, suggesting the fandoms Monster High, Ever After High, Rune Factory 3: A Fantasy Harvest Moon, and The Disastrous Life of Saiki K., with the disclaimer that those fandoms are "only a suggestion of what I like, choose anything you'd like :D!" this fic immediately came to mind for me. And it **fulfills** that prompt. I guess this is sort of canon-compliant, at least to have them as friends. If you don't know this fandom, that's okay! Iko does have a crush on a man but that's not the major thrust of this story, but rather about the growing/deepening connection between Iko and Asako.

There is another reason I posted it on a certain site was besides it having a QPR in-development (being formed) between the two female characters. It under-performed [on AO3](#), only garnering 38 hits, which is perhaps one of the worst hit-counts any fic I have *ever* written has gotten (maybe because the fandom is very small?), which was made worse by only getting only *one* kudo and *zero* comments. My hope is that it can have a second-life on here. The fic did much better on here (added to inspirations), with 101 hits, while garnering 14 hits [on Wattpad](#), 14 hits [on Quotev](#), and 21 hits [on Asian Fanfiction](#), coming to a total of 136 hits.

The original fic was published for Flufftober last year and it served as the first in my ongoing series "The Softness of Intimacy: Asako, Iko, and Romantic Friendship" [on AO3](#) (that series has also been [posted on here](#)

as well). In the original fic, I listed a few stories as inspirations: "Leverage" by L xorisa, "小牧の烦恼" by chechevitsa, "Library Wars: A Compilation of Adorable One-Shots and Short Stories" by Misty dawn977, and "Through A Prince's Gaze" by SageTheWriter. I further listed two pages on My Anime List for "Iku Kasahara" and "Asako Shibasaki" and two pages for those same characters on the Library Wars: Love & War Wiki as inspirations. In my original A/N, I noted that the fic was published on National New Friends Day because Asako and Iko clearly care about each other in a deep way, as friends, and said that I started this fic in early October of this year. I also said that the fic falls under what [some call](#) saffic fics, which "focus on the relationships between women," including gen stories about "other strong female bonds such as friendship, sister, rival and mother-daughter relationships."

This story uses the "Asako" as the first name rather than "Shibasaki" since the fandom site and Wikipedia list her name as "Asako Shibazaki" rather than "Shibazaki Asako". In my original A/N, I said it was unbalanced because other fics I had read for Library War used "Iku" rather than "Kasahara" as her first name, so the same principle should apply here. I noted that I only found two fics which list her name as Asako Shibasaki. The original fic was part of Flufftober 2025 and written to fulfill their "Make it Platonic!" challenge, particularly the Alt 7: "Can I kiss you?" prompt. I ended up writing various fics for that contest, which I was slowly posting on a certain site, but have also posted on here.

When posting this story on a certain site, I revised it from the original word count of 1,947, by adding 101 words, to 2,048, making this fic even stronger than the original, although I did not make it less platonic (and more romantic), change the title, nor did I make it more spicy. When posting it here today, I further revised it. Also, I [saved a copy](#) on the Internet Archive.

Thanks for reading! As always, comments and constructive criticism are welcome.

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

- Inspired by [A First Time for Everything?: Asako, Iko, and Their Affections](#) by [lefemmerouge](#)
- Inspired by [I'm Having a Womance and I'm Loving It.](#) by Erin Meanley (for Glamour)
- Inspired by [Womance vs. Bromance](#) by Akilah Monifa
- Inspired by [One 'Jucy' On-Screen 'Womance' for the Gold Coast!](#) by Tambourine Mountain Daily Star
- Inspired by [Less bromance, more womance](#) by Emma Koehn
- Inspired by [Top 10 Womances On TV Today \(9/28/2011\)](#) by The Morning After
- Inspired by [Queerplatonic](#) by Wiktionary

- Inspired by [Queerplatonic](#) by Fanlore

Nothing got past Asako Shibasaki. Not only was she an asset to the Library Task Force, but she was drop-dead gorgeous. She put a lot of time, and effort, into how she looked. Her hair was pristine. Her blue uniform has been pressed and ironed. Her hair sometimes looked black and at other times it looked dark brown in color. It really depended on whether she was standing next to a window or not. In any case, the sunlight shined brightly on her hair. She smiled. Today would be a good day. She wouldn't be expanding her intelligence network. Instead, she had plans with her tomboyish roommate, something that she'd never expected would happen. She was fine with that.

She gracefully walked across the room toward Iku. Her roommate had been so engrossed in a conversation that she didn't notice Asako until she grabbed her arm. "Shibasaki, can you please let me go? I'm *trying* to work here." She complied with Iku's request. Then she started speaking softly to her, so only she could hear her. She whispered into Iku's ear. "It's today. We have to go to...*that place*." Iku's face turned bright red, the color of a bright Macintosh apple. She knew exactly what Asako was talking about. She slowly regained her composure. She didn't want anyone to get suspicions. "Okay. I'll go back our room."

As they separated, with each of them going their own way, the other librarians looked at them quizzically as their behavior raised questions in their minds. They thought Iku and Asako might be going out or something. Such a possibility seemed strange. Each of them had men they had feelings for, after all, right? Such speculation was only half-correct, as it usually is. Neither one had romantic, or sexual, feelings for the other other. They were just tight as friends. Sometimes they communicated their affection, and support, for one another in their own ways. Their lips had never touched each other's skin, mouths, or anywhere else, as they were not intimate with each other.

As Iku made her way back to the room she shared with Asako in Kanto Library Base, she thought about how unassuming, yet *formidable*, her friend could be. She was a bit nervous about what she would be doing with Asako. It was her *first time*. She'd never done it before with *anyone*. Perhaps she was like other Japanese women in this respect, who had [only done this](#) kind of thing with up to five people by the time they were in their 20s or 30s.

Her friend had checked in with her, to make sure there wouldn't be any misunderstandings, tension, jealousy, or mixed signals. They wouldn't let the friendship they had built over their time they'd been roommates fall away. Neither one wanted it to all come crashing down. Instead, each one saw this as an opportunity for increased bonding, reassurance, comfort, and expression of their affection. It was uncomfortable *only* in the sense

they had *never* done this kind of thing with each other before. They couldn't do it public as that would be utterly scandalous. Even so, their clear trust, honesty, and communication made this possible without either one of them hurting the other. They'd never do that.

Surreptitiously, Asako followed. She had originally planned to go on break at the same time as Iku. As it happened, they both had time off, so they decided to use it for this purpose. It worked out perfectly. She breathed deeply. It would be one of the hardest things she'd ever done in her entire life. She knew full well that if they did this in an open area, while working, they'd get unwanted attention, especially from fellow male employees who worked at the library. Surely she could exploit these employees when she needed to gather information, but this was not one of those times. She *needed* this to be in a private setting. It had to be.

In no time at all, she entered to the room that she shared with Iku. She opened the door and saw Iku leaned up against the wall, sitting on her bed. She had changed into some silly night-shirt. Asako couldn't help but laugh. "Are you wearing...that?...I didn't know you liked *the Helluva Girls*." Iku rolled her eyes. She knew that her friend could really be *too honest* sometimes. This was a shirt that her mother had got for her, saying that young people like this band. She didn't though. She accepted the t-shirt anyway, not knowing how she could say no to her mother. She shrugged. Twirling her hair with her finger, she added, "I'm just...anxious about this...you know...it's *my first time*."

Her friend reassured her. *Everything* had to go smoothly for this work. There couldn't be any fuck-ups. There wouldn't be. She would make sure of that. "It's okay. It will be fine." She was ready. She asked the question. "Iku, can I kiss you?" The brown-haired woman nodded. Bringing her tan face closer, she sloppily smooched the other woman's cheek. She was relieved. Her friend had to remind her. "That's only the first part." Her friend's words made her a bit uneasy. She didn't want to mess this up either. She was ready. She used all her courage she could to keep going. "Okay. Here I go!" she exclaimed.

She planted a kiss on Asako's forehead. They could have moved away from each other. Instead, the complete opposite happened. They sat next to one another on Iku's bed instead. Her friend began the conversation. "How was it...you know...the kiss?" Her friend laughed. She couldn't believe she was answering this awkward question. How could she answer it, *honestly*? "Well...I kinda liked it...I wish we could do it *every day*." Her friend was surprised. Did she need that much love and support? Maybe she did. They could both show their care, respect, compassion, and affection for each other, while having each other's backs. That would be a good thing, right?

"We can...arrange that," Asako found herself saying, then added "I could [never](#) ever do this in public." Iku couldn't agree more. She joked about it, teasing Asako. "You know, casual smooching is *all the rage* these days...I'm not sure I'm at that level *yet*." Her friend laughed. She wasn't really at that level either. She was fine with their friendship being the way it was. She teased Iku. "Think about what the boys would say if we did this in front of them?...they'd be *so jealous* of us." Iku agreed. They would certainly be jealous. Since they had a good time together, Iku suggested that *instead* of a sloppy kiss as a way to express their appreciation for each other, they could [have light pecks](#) on the cheek. It was known as esukiru (エスキール), a type of kiss between two people who know each other well enough and feel comfortable expressing affection for one another without being too intimate or inappropriate.

Surely if the men they had crushes on, at least for now, had kissed them instead, it would be different. A cheek or forehead kiss from them would be romantic and sexual, rather than one of deep, and sweet, [affection](#), meant as a gesture of friendliness. Perhaps they'd even kiss each other on the back of the hand, although that probably wasn't in the cards. Some certainly said, with merit, that friends kissing one another could trigger issues of bonding and intimacy, leading to unintended sexual tension, with [certain "limits"](#) to platonic affection. That was unlikely in this case. Their kisses were not seen as a preamble to sexual intercourse. They were about strengthening emotional connections and commitment.

When they first met, they certainly couldn't have done something like this. It would have been risky, inappropriate, and out of the question. They had to build up to it, with open communication in order to avoid any possible consequences. As they sat together on the bed, they came up with boundaries for how long each kiss would be, possible "safe zones" (cheeks, forehead, and backs of hands), declaring that kisses couldn't be intimate, and pledging to respect each other's wants and needs if someone wanted to stop. They also considered their relationships with others, particularly those on the library force. Some people, certainly, kissed each other on the lips, [as friends](#), but that was a bridge too far for them, at least at the present. If they did that, it could lead to unnecessary tension. They decided to stick to certain areas of the body, particularly one another's [cheeks](#) and foreheads.

This was something that [friends did](#) with each other. In European and Latin American cultures, kissing was often used to greet friends or family members. In Japan, kissing was more often than not done in private, with other forms of affection instead. Japanese culture was much more reserved when it came to public displays of affection. However, young people, such as Iku and Asako, were changing those cultural norms. Despite that, the cheek kiss was still, for them, [an expression](#) of their deep friendship rather than anything else. They wanted to tenderly, and sweetly, comfort each other, with the promise that they were there [for](#)

[one another](#), to show emotional care, and show that each one of them mattered. They had expressed this to each other in ways *other than* kissing in the past. As such, this was, in some ways, a big step forward for them.

Iku patted her friend on the back. "You did good. I'm glad we did this." Her friend smiled, and then turned to the subject of Iku's supervisor, the one who she now *knew* was her prince. She teased her about him. She loved doing that sometimes. "I am glad we did as well...anyway...you should tell that man you like, Dojo, what you are thinking and feeling." All the while, Iku was caught off guard by what she said. Her friend had certainly suggested she learn more about how so-called "normal" women fell in love before. She'd angrily dismissed that idea, even though she knew her friend was only trying to be helpful.

"Uh...I guess I can..." she started to say. "But *you* need to help me! We should you know...go out to a cafe and to the movies...and I can buy a gift for him I guess." Her friend happily laughed. She couldn't believe she had taken off work to sit with her. She jested her about it. She couldn't resist doing so. It was far too tempting. "Oh, so are you *asking me out* on a date now? Are we going to buy some sexy underwear together or something?" Iku, clearly flustered, threw her pillow at her friend's face. She was tired at how Asako teased her like this. Over time, she had, mostly, gotten used to it.

She held up her hands like she was surrendering. "I mean...it's a friendly outing, with a beautiful woman *such as yourself*...someone who is really girly." Her friend chuckled heartily. Iku understood her. Surely, she took defending books just as seriously. Undoubtedly, she had a strong sense of justice when it came to protecting other people's freedom of expression. She'd put her life on the line for that. In contrast, Asako wasn't tomboyish. She was a much better student, better at combat, and better at shooting. She wasn't "book dumb" and wasn't idealistic. All the while, she detested, with a passion, when people complimented her.

Since Iku had joined the library force, she helped her study, using the skills she had honed as a military intelligence informant, aware of facts that many others weren't aware of. She loved to crack sarcastic jokes, sometimes acting bluntly and sharing her true feelings. She tended to hide the latter so she could easily interact with others, allowing her to succeed in social situations. This came with a catch: she never trusted other people. As time went on, and after she met Iku, these feelings changed. She realized that Iku was the *one person* she wanted to be friends with, the *one person* she trusted. She was willing to look past her friend's flaws, and fatal mistakes, and stand by her no matter what.

"Okay, it's a date!" Asako exclaimed, to the utter annoyance of Iku, who playfully punched her in the arm. They knew they couldn't stay in their

shared room, sitting on this bed, *forever*. They'd have to go back to work at some point. Until that happened, they could enjoy their time together, while it lasted...

End Notes

I had a lot of fun adding in a title, summary, and elements which make it seem the fic will go in a romantic direction then it turns around and is platonic instead! There is no doubt that this fic is [fluff](#), i.e. feel-good, pleasant works with two or more characters in a romantic or non-romantic relationship, which can be [gen](#) (i.e. "no romantic or sexual content") or focus on family interactions, and be a work with uplifting and warm descriptions. It also is, in a sense, a sweet and happy story too, so it is fluffy.

However, this fic does not fall into [angst](#) (i.e. "...intended to provoke the feeling of unrest and uncertainty in readers...signifies that the story will be primarily dramatic in nature, rather than comedic or light-hearted, and that characters may suffer mental or physical anguish during the course of the story...There also exist subgenres such as flangst (fluffy angst) and wangst (whiny angst)"). Otherwise, the TV Tropes page on Library War, plus the fandom pages for Asako and Iku on the Library War fandom wiki were helpful, although the latter two pages were very limited.

In [my last fic for Flufftober](#), I said in the endnote that Elena and Naomi had a womance (also called "hermance" or "shemance"), referring to a close, but non-sexual, relationship between women, with deep and meaningful connections, a tight-knit bond, camaraderie, solidarity, female bonding, and possibly sisterhood. I would not say that Asako and Iku are at that point yet, but are only starting the process, with cheek kisses every day pushing that forward. In fact, I'd reason that their friendship will certainly grow stronger as they become closer, appreciating each other only in a way that other women can, seeing themselves as soul sisters or kindred spirits, courting one another "beyond the bonds of an ordinary friendship," drawn together in a nonsexual way. Such individuals can even call themselves girlfriends if they wish. Others say that womance is "a strong relationship between two straight women" but I don't think those within a womance have to be *necessarily* straight. Ultimately, I do agree, however, that there should be more womance and less bromance, which have appeared in some series but not a lot.

Otherwise, I would say that the relationship between Asako and Iku is only beginning to be queerplatonic, a term referring to emotional and physical intimacy between two or more individuals while they remain friends, and have outside romantic relationships, even if those involved consider themselves soulmates. It queers traditional platonic relationship structures, [as one writer noted](#) (see Ashton Strait's article on page 3 entitled "beyond bffs: cozying up to queerplatonic relationships").

Wiktionary defines the term as "not romantic and (usually) not sexual, but sharing a stronger emotional bond than [a] typical...friendship." Fanlore, for its part, says that the term is used to "describe a relationship between two or more people that deviates from what the people within the relationship deem to be strictly romantic or platonic" and notes it originates from aromantic people. As such, many fanworks with these relationships often have "at least one character who identifies as such." Fanlore further notes that while the exact definition is vague, QPP serves as an abbreviation for "queerplatonic partner" while QPR serves as an abbreviation for "queerplatonic relationship."

This fic was originally posted on Sunset, a femslash fanfic site. However, it was removed on April 17th when I was sadly perma-banned for mishandling interactions with a few users, despite apologizing to those users, removing certain passages of fics, and apologizing to the Sunset admin (and others). As such, I would strongly recommend **against** *anyone* joining that site, or Superlove. Both admins (Melo/Kat for Superlove, Agnes for Sunset) are friends with each other. Those admins are very particular and not in a good way. I find the whole circumstance deeply unfortunate. I wish it could have been resolved a much better way.

I did not want this fic to be lost. I have not included some tags I had on that site (like Sunset's Femslash Refresh 2026, Exclusive to Sunset, Prompt Fill, Other (Male) Characters Are Mentioned, and First Library War fic on here) but others have been retained. On Sunset, this fic was listed as part of two series: "The Softness of Intimacy: Asako, Iko, and Romantic Friendship" and "My Femslash Refresh 2026 Collection."

Please [drop by the Archive and comment](#) to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!